



YOKOHAMA TIRE CORPORATION  
CORPORATE OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 4550  
FULLERTON, CA 92834-4550  
PHONE: (714) 870-3800 (800) 423-4544

December 17, 2009

Mr. Daniel C. Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
NVS 215  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.  
Washington, DC 20590



Dear Mr. Smith,

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R., Ch. V, Part 573, we are submitting the following "Defect and Noncompliance Information Report" to advise you of a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 139; New Pneumatic Radial Tires for Light Vehicles. Specifically, Yokohama Tire Corporation (YTC) submits this report that relates a noncompliance of 1782 tires in the size and designation of 205/50R16 87V A680. These tires have been manufactured with a full Tire Identification Number (TIN) molded onto one sidewall with the other sidewall void of either the full or partial TIN. This report is filed in advance of a Petition for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance, pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Ch. V, Part 556.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Ch. V, Part 573, YTC reports the following:

Section 573.5 (c) (1) Name of Manufacturer – Yokohama Rubber Company, LTD.

Section 573.5 (c) (2) (iii) Items Containing the Noncompliance – Certain 205/50R16 87V A680 tires built between September 1, 2007 and November 28, 2009.

Section 573.5 (c) (3) Total Number of Items Containing the Noncompliance – 4903 tires were manufactured with only a single TIN molded to one tire sidewall. A total of 1782 tires were received by YTC from Japan and distributed into the United States marketplace.

Section 573.5 (c) (4) Percentage of Tires Estimated to Actually Contain the Noncompliance – All 1782 tires contain the noncompliance, therefore the percentage is 100%.

Section 573.5 (c) (5) Description of the Noncompliance – Yokohama Rubber Company designed, developed and distributed the 205/50R16 87V A680. Yokohama manufactured this tire in very limited quantities for replacement purposes from September 1, 2007 through November 28, 2009. These tires were manufactured with sidewall serial number markings that did not meet the tire labeling requirements of 49 C.F.R., Ch. V, Section 571.139, S5.5.1 (a) and (b) that were mandated from September 2007, with regards to the application of the tire identification numbers molded on both sidewalls. These noncompliant tires were manufactured after September 2007 with only one full TIN applied to the intended outboard sidewall and the opposite sidewall having neither a full or partial TIN applied.

Section 573.5 (c) (7) Basis for Determination of Noncompliance – The molding of the single TIN was found at the time that one of several molds was being certified and readied as part of a small and limited production quantity of replacement tires for the USA.

Section 573.5 (c) (8) Remedy Program – Upon detecting this oversight, Yokohama Rubber Company has designed and crafted a verification countermeasure to prevent any re-occurrence of any incorrect tire markings.

Section 573.5 (c) (8) (iii) Intent to File Petition for Exemption from Recall Requirements YTC on behalf of Yokohama Rubber Company LTD intends to file a Petition for Exemption from the Notification and Remedy Requirements of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act on the grounds that this noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. All of the noncompliant tires that are the subject of this information report have successfully met all other provisions and test criteria of 49 C.F.R., Ch. V, Section 571.139, New Pneumatic Radial Tires for Light Vehicles.

Sincerely,



Thomas T. Griffing  
Corporate Quality Assurance